

## **News Release**

Release No. CESWF-PA-02-016 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

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## Boat ramps close as Corps lowers B.A. Steinhagen Lake level

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold B.A. Steinhagen Lake below the normal conservation pool level for the next several months to complete abutment repairs near the Town Bluff Dam floodgates. The normal conservation pool level ranges from 81 - 83 feet above mean sea level (msl), and the Corps will keep the level at 79 feet msl.

The Corps was repairing the abutment, concrete slabs next to the floodgates, last fall when heavy rains prevented completion of the project. The Corps temporarily covered the excavated area with riprap to prevent erosion during the flood season. The Corps will hold the lake at 79 feet msl to prevent high flows over the riprap from damaging the dam's structure. The Corps will raise the lake level above 79 feet msl after repairs to the abutment are completed.

The lower lake level may negatively impact the boat ramps at Corps parks and Martin Dies Jr. State Park. The only boat ramps accessible with the lower lake level are at Walnut Ridge in Martin Dies Jr. State Park and the Pecan Point boat ramp in the Corps' Sandy Creek Park.

For more information about the lower lake level and affected recreation areas, contact Ed Murtishaw, Town Bluff Dam and B.A. Steinhagen Lake manager, at (409) 429-3491.